

To:
Co-Chair Winfield
Co-Chair Stafstrom
Vice Chair Flexer
Vice Chair Blumenthal
Ranking Member Kissel
Ranking Member Fishbein

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I respectfully request that you APPROVE SB 388.

This proposed bill strengthens the right to self-defense by creating a presumption that it is reasonable to believe physical force is necessary to defend oneself, or another person, from someone who has unlawfully entered one's dwelling, place of work or motor vehicle. It is a basic human right for us to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Victims of violent crime who respond with defensive force while protecting themselves or their loved ones should not have to face the additional threat of criminal or civil prosecution. Putting a person through that unnecessary legal process when that person has already gone through the trauma of a violent physical assault and potentially had their life threatened is not fair or just. To be put in that position of having to defend yourself or your family from another person and then have the government play Monday morning quarterback is not reasonable.

I respectfully request that you APPROVE HB 5412.

This proposed bill strengthens the right of self-defense by removing the duty to retreat for a person in a house of religious worship, before using deadly physical force to defend themselves or a third person. This is a reasonable extension of SB 388, in that it protects your right to defend yourself or your family from a violent threat, specifically in a house of worship. If enacted, law-abiding citizens would no longer be required to retreat before legally defending themselves in this difficult situation.

I respectfully request that you APPROVE HB 5415.

This proposed bill allows the legal transfer of so-called "assault weapons" and "large capacity" magazines between two people who already legally possess such weapons or magazines. It would seem that if two people are already authorized to possess these types of magazines and weapons, then why should there be additional restrictions placed on the transfer? This is just unnecessary government tracking of legal firearms and accessories.

I respectfully request that you OPPOSE SB 16.

This proposed bill is an overly general, sweeping gun control bill that covers many subjects and also expands what the state defines as an "Assault Weapon". As with prior versions of this bill, I object to defining semi-automatic rifles as "Assault Weapons". All reasonable people know that actual assault weapons, those capable of burst or full automatic fire, are highly restricted and do not require further regulations. Seeking to ban additional firearms just because they "looks scary" is not a valid reason for overreach. This proposed bill also modifies existing carry laws and adds additional potential hurdles for law abiding citizens to obtain a carry permit and exercise one of their original constitutional rights. It also expands gun free zones, to include areas near demonstrations where normal law-abiding citizens may be caught unaware due to the spontaneous nature of some of these demonstrations. These proposals are unneeded and simply anti-gun rhetoric and grand standing in an election year. These proposed changes will do nothing to stop violent crime and improve public safety, and simply burden law-abiding gun owners with more regulations.

I respectfully request that you OPPOSE HB 5416.

This proposed bill prohibits the sale, delivery or transfer of more than one pistol or revolver to any individual during a thirty-day period, with limited exceptions. What makes you think you should ration the Second Amendment rights of law abiding citizens. Are you restricting how many cars a person can buy in a month? Are you restricting how many power tools a person can buy in a month? Are you restricting the number of cellular phones a person can buy in a month? All of these items are equally capable of causing injury or death if misused. Are you going to limit these purchases too? This proposed bill will do nothing to get illegal guns off our streets. It will just make it harder for law abiding citizens to buy legal firearms.

Thank you for your time, and for allowing me to present this testimony.

Respectfully,

Otto S. Neumann

Weatogue, CT